

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01043 281105Z
ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1043

EXDIS

NAIROBI FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND CONGRESSMAN DIGGS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV MZ RH
SUBJ: RHODESIA: KAUNDA COMMENTS TO DIGGS AND SOLARZ ON DAR MEETING

REF: DAR 1293, DAR 1297

1. DURING AFTER DINNER DISCUSSION WITH CONGRESSMEN DIGGS AND SOLARZ, THEIR PARTY AND MYSELF, PRESIDENT KAUNDA INDICATED THAT PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS NOW PREPARED TO ACCEPT MOST OF THE ESSENTIALS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL AS REPORTED DAR REFTELS.

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2. SPECIFICALLY KAUNDA SAID THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD ASSURED THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THAT IT NOW ACCEPTED THE AUTHORITY OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER IN THE AREAS OF LAW AND ORDER AND SECURITY. HE SAID THE PF ALSO HAD AGREED TO A UN MILITARY FORCE. KAUNDA REPEATED THAT THE PF INSISTED THAT IT ALONE REPRESENT NATIONALISTS IN DISCUSSION OF ALL MILITARY MATTERS. IT ACCEPTED THAT AFTER THE US THAT UK COULD BRING IN "ANYONE YOU WANT."

HE NOTED THAT IN TAKING THIS POSITION THE PF WAS GOING FURTHER THAN NYERERE, WHO OBJECTED STRONGLY TO PARTICIPATION BY CHIRAU.

3. DURING THE LENGTHY CONVERSATION, KAUNDA REVIEWED MANY OF HIS WELL KNOWN POSITIONS, INCLUDING WHY HE HAD SUPPORTED TURNOVER OF POWER BEFORE ELECTIONS TO A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY "BASED ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT" AND HOW HE HAD BEEN PROVED ACCURATE IN HIS MANY PREDICTIONS OF CONFLICT IN RHODESIA UNTIL THE WEST SUCCEEDS IN GETTING RID OF SMITH. KAUNDA REPEATED HIS PREDICTION OF A SECOND SMITH UDI ON NOVEMBER 11, 1978 AS WELL AS HIS ENTREATY TO THE U.S. TO TAKE THE "FRONT SEAT" IN THE EFFORT TO REACH A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA.

4. TO CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ' QUESTION OF HOW MUCH SUPPORT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT HAD IN RHODESIA, KAUNDA NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT WIDELY SUPPORTED. IF IT HAD BEEN, HE SAID, SMITH WOULD NOT HAVE HELD A "SECRET" SIGNING CEREMONY BUT DONE IT AS IS TRADITIONAL IN THE BRITISH SYSTEM, IN A WELL ATTENDED PUBLIC CEREMONY. HE ADDED THAT THE RHODESIAN REGIME'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT THE NAME OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OR ITS LEADERS TO BE REPEATED IN THE PRESS AND RADIO AND ITS PROHIBITION OF THE RIGHT TO LISTEN TO RADIO REPORTS FROM SURROUNDING COUNTRIES PROVED ITS LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN ITS OWN POPULARITY. FINALLY, HE SAID, CONTINUATION OF THE STREAM OF VOLUNTEER FREEDOM FIGHTERS THROUGH BOTSWANA INDICATED CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE.

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5. KAUNDA SAID ZAMBIA HAD ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE AAP AND THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT ANY SETTLEMENT THAT IT BELIEVED GENUINE.

6. KAUNDA CLAIMED THAT THE BRITISH HAD BACKED OUT OF THE FEBRUARY 10 MALTA FOLLOW ON MEETING. IT HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BY ALL PARTIES, HE SAID, FOLLOWING WHICH OWEN HAD CHANGED HIS MIND.

7. IN REPLY TO SOLARZ' QUESTION ABOUT ACCEPTANCE OF CUBANS AND SOVIETS, IN ASSISTANCE TO THE PF FIGHT AGAINST THE SMITH REGIME AND IN DEFENSE OF ZAMBIA, KAUNDA SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK FOR SUPPORT WHEREVER HE COULD GET IT IF SMITH CONTINUES TO THREATEN ZAMBIA WITH MERCENARIES AND SOUTH AFRICANS. NO ONE, HE SAID, HAD THE RIGHT TO STOP HIM FROM ASKING FOR HELP WHILE THEY WERE AT THE SAME TIME HELPING HIS ENEMY. NEVERTHELESS HE DID NOT SEE ANY NEED FOR CUBANS OR SOVIETS TO BE INVITED BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO FIGHT IN ZIMBABWE.

8. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ LATER NOTED THAT IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH BOTSWANAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOGWE IN GABORONE EARLIER IN THE DAY, HE HAD NOT GOTTEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PF HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL ON POWERS OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, UN FORCES ETC. AS KAUNDA INDICATED, BUT RATHER

THAT IT HAD NOT TAKEN EXCEPTION TO THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS' STATEMENT OF VIEWS. MOGWE FELT THE CO-LEADERS HAD LISTENED AND REGISTERED THE FLP'S VIEWS AND THAT THE CO-LEADERS UNDERSTOOD THEM.

9. DURING DINNER FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE TOLD ME THAT HE AND MOGWE WOULD BE THE ONLY FRONT LINE FOREIGN MINISTERS GOING TO LAGOS AS DEPARTMENT IS PERHAPS ALREADY AWARE. AT THE MOMENT MWALE IS EXPECTING TO TRAVEL WITH NKOMO AND MUGABE TO LAGOS ON A PLANE PROVIDED BY THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT.

10. THIS TELEGRAM NOT CLEARED BY CONGRESSMAN DIGGS. REQUEST NAIROBI SHOW IT TO HIM FOR POSSIBLE COMMENT. LOW

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